

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 010967
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: ARA/CCA:WSSMITH

APPROVED BY: ARA/CCA:WSSMITH

-----016811 141824Z /45

R 140524Z JAN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO TH COAST GUARD DISTRICT MIAMI FLA

S E C R E T STATE 010967

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT HAVANA 0058, SENT SECSTATE 10 JAN:

QUOTE S E C R E T HAVANA 0058

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI PINS SNAR CU

SUBJ: COAST GUARD TALKS

REF: HAVANA 0041

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: CHIEF OF CUBAN BORDER GUARD COMMENTS
ON UPCOMING TALKS WITH U.S. COAST GUARD DELEGATION. HE
EXPRESSES PREOCCUPATION WITH CUBAN EXILE TERRORISTS, BUT ALSO
SUGGESTS COOPERATION IN NARCOTICS CONTROL AND HIJACKING.
END SUMMARY.

2. USINT CHIEF, ACCOMPANIED BY GLASSMAN, CALLED, JANUARY 6,
ON COL. PEDRO RODRIGUEZ PERALTA, CHIEF OF BORDER GUARD TROOPS,
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO DISCUSS UPCOMING

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 010967

US COAST GUARD-CUBAN BORDER GUARD DISCUSSIONS. RODRIGUEZ
WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MAJ ARADO VALDEZ GANZALEZ, BORDER
GUARD CHIEF OF STAFF AND CHAIRMAN OF OF CUBAN DELEGATION IN UP-
COMING TALKS, AS WELL AS LT. RAUL GONZALEZ, BORDER GUARD LEGAL
ADVISOR, AND MAJOR MIGUEL BERMEJO, CHIEF OF BORDER GUARD
NAVAL FORCES--BOTH OF WHOM WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE IN TALKS.

3. RODRIGUEZ SAID THAT, IN ADDITION TO AGENDA ITEMS SUGGESTED BY US, CUBANS WANT TO DISCUSS THREE ADDITIONAL ITEMS (SEE REFTEL)--(A) SECURITY OF TOURIST CRUISE SHIPS DURING SEA VOYAGES TO CUBA. (B) DRUG ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES, AND (C) SUPPRESSION OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. INTEREST IN ITEM "A" STEMS FROM RENEWAL OF US TOURIST CRUISES THIS MONTH, COUPLED WITH TERRORIST THREATS DIRECTED AGAINST SUCH SHIPS LAST YEAR. RODRIGUEZ PERALTA SAID BORDER GUARDS HAVE ALREADY MADE ON-SHORE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WITH CUBATUR REGARDING HANDLING OF CREW MEMBERS AND ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF SHIPS. PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION WITH U.S. COAST GUARD WOULD BE TO SURVEY SECURITY ASPECT OF SEA LEG OF VOYAGES.

4. WITH REGARD TO DRUG ENFORCEMENT, RODRIGUEZ PERALTA SAID THAT, WHILE CUBANS DO NOT HAVE SIGNIFICANT DOMESTIC DRUG PROBLEM, THEY FREQUENTLY INTERCEPT BOATS PROCEEDING FROM NORTH COAST OF SOUTH AMERICA AS WELL AS CENTRAL AMERICA CARRYING NARCOTICS TO U.S. WHEN ASKED WHETHER CUBANS WOULD BE WILLING AT LATER DATE TO HOLD TALKS WITH U.S. SPECIALISTS ON THIS MATTER, RODRIGUEZ PERALTA REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY. HE ALSO SAID CUBANS WOULD BE WILLING TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON NARCOTICS SHIPMENTS. HE SAID THAT CUBANS ARE SOMETIMES AWARE BEFOREHAND OF NARCOTICS SHIPMENTS PROCEEDING TO U.S. (COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT CUBANS HAVE OFFERED NARCOTICS INFORMATION TO VENZUELANS-APPARENTLY RELATING TO INVOLVEMENT OF CUBAN EXILES IN TRADE.)

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 010967

5. RODRIGUEZ PERALTA SAID THAT FUNDAMENTAL CUBAN INTEREST IN COAST GUARD TALKS (WHICH WERE "APPROVED BY POLITBURO") IS TO CONTRIBUTE TO "STRUGGLE AGAINST TERRORISM". RODRIGUEZ PERALTA EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR PAST USG INFORMATION ON ANTICIPATED EXILE ATTACKS AND SAID CUBA IS READY TO OFFER MORE INFORMATION AND "INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION" FOR SUPPRESSION OF CUBAN EXILE TERRORISM. HE SAID, WITHOUT BEING SPECIFIC, THAT CUBA HAS A LONG ANTI-TERRORIST OUTREACH. RODRIGUEZ PERALTA ADDED, AS AN ASIDE, THAT STRATEGY FOR CURRENT CORU (ANTI-CASTRO EXILE ORGANIZATION) TERRORIST CAMPAIGN AGAINST CUBA WAS LAID OUT AT MEETING OF BRIGADE 2506 ORGANIZATION "WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY MAYOR OF MIAMI".

6. ON HIJACKING, RODRIGUEZ PERALTA REITERATED CUBAN COMPLAINTS ON 1976 BARBADOS SABOTAGE OF CUBANA FLIGHT. WHILE REAFFIRMING CUBAN RELUCTANCE TO REVIVE US-CUBAN HIJACKING AGREEMENT UNTIL U.S. TAKES DECISIVE ACTION AGAINST CUBAN EXILE TERRORISTS, RODRIGUEZ PERALTA EXPRESSED INTEREST IN EXCHANGING INFORMATION ON POSSIBLE HIJACKING ATTEMPTS. HE SAID THAT CUBANS, AND FIDEL CASTRO PERSONALLY, ARE COMMITTED TO TAKING STRONG ACTION AGAINST HIJACKERS. (IN ADDITION TO AIR HIJACKING, RODRIGUEZ

PERALTA SEVERAL TIMES RAISED ISSUE OF BOATS STOLEN, SOMETIMES WITH VIOLENCE, BY INDIVIDUALS FLEEING CUBA. FYI BOAT "HIJACKING" ALSO FIGURES IN ABROGATED US-CUBAN HIJACKING TREATY END FYI.

7. IN CONNECTION WITH DETENTION OF US-OWNED BOATS NEAR CUBA, RODRIGUEZ PERALTA CLAIMED THAT CUBANS HAVE EXERCISED EXCEPTIONAL RESTRAINT--BOTH IN TERMS OF AVOIDING VIOLENCE AND NOT IMPOSING FINES OR JAIL SENTENCES. HE SAID THAT, IN CASES OTHER THAN SELF-DEFENSE, BORDER GUARD HEADQUARTERS MUST AUTHORIZE OPENING OF FIRE ON SHIPS THAT ARE BEING STOPPED. WITH REGARD TO RECENT STARDUST CASE, HE SAID THAT REPORTS THAT CUBANS OPENED FIRE ARE COMPLETELY FALSE. (RODRIGUEZ PERALTA ADDED THAT STARDUST WAS STOPPED ONLY BECAUSE IT HAD
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 010967

APPROACHED WITHIN FIVE MILES OF SHORE, NOT BECAUSE OF ANY SUSPICION THAT IT WAS CARRYING DRUGS OR CONTRABAND.) HE ALSO POINTED TO A CASE LAST AUGUST IN WHICH A BOARDING PARTY COMPOSED OF ONE CUBAN BORDER GUARD WAS THROWN OVERBOARD FROM A US YACHT. RODRIGUEZ PERALTA SAID THAT THE CUBAN BORDER GUARD CONCERNED WOULD HAVE BEEN FULLY JUSTIFIED IN SHOOTING THE AMERICAN, BUT HE DID NOT. ON ANOTHER RECENT OCCASION, AND AMERICAN YACHTSMAN OPENED FIRE ON CUBAN PURSUERS, BUT CUBANS DID NOT SHOOT BACK. INDEED, RODRIGUEZ PERALTA SAID, WHEN HE SUGGESTED PUTTING THE AMERICAN INVOLVED IN THE SHOOTING INCIDENT IN JAIL, CASTRO PERSONALLY HAD ORDERED THE INDIVIDUAL RELEASED TO AVOID DIPLOMATIC PROBLEMS. (COMMENT: USINT OFFICERS POINTED OUT THAT MINREX HAS NEVER PROVIDED FULL ACCOUNT OF STARDUST INCIDENT AND THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE ONE. REODRIGUEZ PERALTA ADMITTED THAT BORDER GUARD COORDINATION WITH MINREX HAS BEEN SPOTTY.)

8. ON QUESTION OF PRISONERS HERE, RODRIGUEZ PERALTA TOOK STRONG STAND AGAINST CUBAN CITIZEN "CIA AGENTS" RESPONSIBLE FOR INFILTRATION AND EXFILTRATION EFFORTS DURING WHICH CUBAN BORDER GUARDS AND OTHERS WERE KILLED. COMMENT: IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER HE WAS ALSO REFERRING TO AMCIT POLITICAL PRISONER TUR--WHO IS BINATIONAL.)

9. FYI: RODRIGUEZ PERALTA, IN SOMEWHAT INJURED MANNER, MENTIONED THAT HE WILL NOT BE CHAIRMAN OF THE CUBAN DELEGATION AT THE COAST GUARD TALKS SINCE THE COMMANDANT OF THE COAST GUARD WILL NOT BE PRESENT. BASED ON HIS TESTY TONE (HE ASKED, "IN WHAT SPIRIT WILL COAST GUARD DELEGATION BE COMING DOWN)?, WE ARE PROBABLY FORTUNATE THAT HE WILL NOT BE CHAIRMAN END FYI. LANE UNQUOTE. VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFORMATION EXCHANGE, BORDER GUARDS, COAST GUARDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE010967
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARA/CCA:WSSMITH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780022-0346
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780162/aaaacakl.tel
Line Count: 166
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9ea263e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 78 HAVANA 41
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3773513
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COAST GUARD TALKS
TAGS: MILI, PINS, SNAR, CU, US
To: 7TH COAST GUARD DISTRICT MIAMI FLA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9ea263e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014